

## **LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Law and Public Safety Committee of the City of Raleigh met on Wednesday, August 28, 2013, in the Room 201, Raleigh Municipal Building, 222 West Hargett Street, Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, Raleigh, North Carolina, with the following present:

### **Committee**

**Mary Ann Baldwin, Presiding**  
**Randy Stagner**  
**John Odom**

### **Also Present**

**Nancy McFarlane, Mayor**  
**Eugene Weeks, Mayor Pro Tem**  
**Bonner Gaylord**  
**Russ Stephenson**

### **Staff**

**Assistant City Manager Howe**  
**City Attorney Leapley**  
**Chief Deck-Brown (RPD)**  
**Parks Director Sauer (RPRD)**

Chairman Baldwin called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. and the following item(s) were discussed with action taken as shown.

**11-36 – Feeding the Homeless/Moore Square** - Chairperson Baldwin asked Staff to give a summary of the item.

Assistant City Manager Howe briefly talked about concerns and issues relating to Moore Square and feeding the homeless. Mr. Howe pointed out the City of Raleigh is ready to look for alternative sites to allow groups to provide food but would like to concentrate on sites near where those in need already congregate. He would like to work with existing partners to identify alternative sites. He stated this is a great testimony to the City because there are so many people willing to help. This is positive for the quality of living. He feels the City is lucky to have this type of help. He stated this is not a bad thing. He concluded everybody has the same objective and want to provide a safe environment where people can offer food to those who need it. He gave a brief overview of Staff's recommendation as follows:

- In the interim, do not change policy regarding Moore Square
- No enforcement/arrests for any food distribution activity - same as current policy
- Continue to educate food providers about restrictions in the park and sidewalks
- Once alternative sites are identified, offer alternatives to groups who arrive to serve food
- Ask food distribution operations to move only when a permitted activity is to be held in the park
- In the interim, look for alternative sites to allow groups to provide food
- Concentrate on sites near where those in need already congregate
- Explore Wake County facilities that are already set up for services to the needy

- Explore sites at churches/organizations that have facilities that can accommodate outside groups safely
- Work with our existing partners to identify alternative sites
- Re-engage the Community Oriented Government (COG) team
- Widen the circle to include other agencies including Wake County
- Reach out to all community groups and faith-based organizations to participate
- Ask the team to develop specific action steps related to the priorities they have already developed

Mr. Howe gave a brief history of how the Sheppard's Kitchen operates. It is in a professional kitchen that provides tables and utensils in an orderly feeding process. He is really thankful for this community stepping forward to provide for the needy. They provide insurance that is needed for a safe environment. This is what the City is looking for. He stated a concern for people that use sidewalks is the cleanup after everything is done. He does not feel there is anyone here at the City of Raleigh that does not feel compassion for the situation at hand.

**Dianne Sauer, Raleigh Parks and Recreation Director gave a brief overview of the following information:**

Thank you for the opportunity to come speak to you today. Before I get into the presentation I would also like to reiterate what Mr. Howe has stated. The issue is about the safe and coordinated distribution of food to the less fortunate and we as the City have and will continue to work with stakeholders to address these efforts. I am going to start by taking you back over a year ago when our Community Oriented Government program initiated a Community Priorities meeting due to the complaints, concerns and issues that were brought up by residents and businesses in the Moore Square Area. The meeting was held at Marbles Museum and close to 100 citizens attended. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a list of priorities based on citizens input, needs and concerns and rank them by the degree of urgency. These are some of the pictures that were sent in from the citizens of Moore Square.

From the priorities -- action items, work plans and partnerships were developed. The Citizen priorities that came out of the meeting were:

- 1) Increase police presence due to public health and safety issues.
- 2) Maintenance Improvements to Moore Square transit station and park
- 3) Develop partnerships and alliances to address the distribution of food to the less fortunate
- 4) Renovate Moore Square Park
- 5) Increase events occurring in around the Moore Square Area

The action items based on the top 3 items that have taken place since the citizen's priorities were established are:

- 1) For Priority 1 - increase police presence and safety, I will refer to Chief Deck Brown to address during her presentation
- 2) Maintenance Improvements to Moore Square transit include
  - a. Increase Staff hours to service restrooms more frequently
  - b. Improved way finding and parking signage
  - c. Moved the R-Line stop due to complaints from area business
  - d. Added new handrails and lighting of stairwells
  - e. Added security cameras and
  - f. Added LED lights and a sound system to the transit station

Maintenance in Moore Square Park and surrounding area include;

- a. 3 trash removal pick ups daily -- 7 days a week from Parks and Solid Waste Services
  - b. Adopt a Park agreement with Downtown Living Advocates and Moore Square Magnet School specifically for trash pick up and beautification projects.  
Tree trimming and pruning  
And also the citizens expressed a desire for City staff to articulate and hold accountable for clean up the groups distributing food on the weekends.
1. Develop partnerships and alliances to address the distribution of food to the less fortunate

City Staff has partnered with the Wake Area Mission Ministries also known as WAMM. WAMM is comprised of more than 80 participants from local outreach groups and ministries presently distributing food in the Moore Square area and who have recognized (quoted directly from their website) “the struggle with the chaos and almost competitiveness between people trying to do good in the park on the weekends and willing to meet together with other ministries to talk about a different way of serving those in need”. They also recognize that hopefully some day the park would be closed for renovations and they wanted to take a proactive approach to moving away from Moore Square.

City Staff has been working with WAMM since last September assisting with their efforts to develop “Care Points” or Outposts Centers to bring the food distribution out to areas in Wake County where there are residential camps for the less fortunate instead of everyone coming to Moore Square.

For example --- City staff worked with WAMM to locate these areas so we could identify potential food distribution sites in the area. We also assisted with GIS mapping to strategically plot these locations.

While City Staff worked with WAMM on care center locations we were also educating the groups distributing food around Moore Square on the ordinances and on WAMM's efforts. We had parallel efforts going on

The 2 ordinances we were educating on were:

Most groups knew of this ordinance since it was adopted

- City Ordinance Code 9-2022

Distribution of food prohibited. That ordinance specifically states:

No individuals or group *shall* serve or distribute meals or food of any kind in or on any *City* park or greenway unless such distribution is pursuant to a permit issued by the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Director.

Most groups were aware and complying with this ordinance.

History behind this ordinance – it was adopted in 1999 when the City and County executed an agreement to establish a homeless shelter operated by the County on South Wilmington Street.

And the 2<sup>nd</sup> ordinance which most organizations were not familiar and we started educating in the beginning of July due to increase complaints of sidewalks being blocked since they knew not to distribute from the park is

Raleigh City Code 12-1022

- Titled: Use of Sidewalks for private purposes
- Which requires permission from City Council, and applicant
- Must obtain a permit and provide liability insurance

As you can see we have been working very collaboratively and strategically since last August to try to address the Moore Square business owners and citizen's concerns and priorities. At this time I would like to turn the presentation over to Chief Deck Brown to address priority 1 and other Raleigh Police Department efforts.

**Chief Deck-Brown gave an overview of the following:**

Good afternoon and thank you for this opportunity to speak. Before describing the police department's year-long involvement that preceded this weekend's interactions at Moore Square and providing information concerning some of the activities there,

- I will begin by noting that the RPD holds its relationship with the community to be of utmost importance.

When working on a community issue,

- We always strive to coordinate with the affected stakeholders to gather and share information and before taking any action.
- As is the case with other departmental activities, our actions are guided by our values of Service, Courage, Fairness, Integrity, and Compassion.

It was with all those guiding values in mind that we participated in the “brainstorming-priorities” session Diane mentioned concerning the Moore Square area.

**As you heard that session was attended by 92 people representing:**

- Residents
- Business representatives
- Non-profit service providers
- Personnel from the Parks & Recreation Department
- Community Services Department
- Community Development Department
- Police Department

The COR Public Affairs Office released a statement regarding Community Prioritizes Strategies to Improve Moore Square Historic District Quality of Life

The meeting was the subject of a News & Observer story. As reported in the story, issues involving the less fortunate and those in need were among the principal topics discussed during the session, but there were also discussions of the transit mall, criminal activity and offenses from littering to murder, which were reported in the story. That meeting formed a valuable foundation upon which collaborative solutions could be developed, and the Police Department has been a partner in those endeavors. ***Our focus has always been on achieving progress that works for all involved.***

Two weeks after last year’s meeting was held:

- Police Department Community Police Officers engaged with members of WAMM and other non-profit group representatives to follow up.
- And formal follow-ups to the August 2012 meeting were held among city staff in September of last year and March of this year.
- Besides those formal follow-up meetings, there have been dozens of activities and actions taken both by the Police Department alone and in conjunction with other City departments and community organizations.
- The Downtown District’s community policing officers consistently attend community roundtables and meetings concerning the homeless, those affected by mental health issues, and those struggling with addictions.

Among the various groups with whom the district’s officers work is:

- Love Wins Ministries.

An officer visits nearly daily at their Jones Street office to see if any assistance is needed, and Love Wins has been a referral resource for the officers.

Both community policing and district patrol officers work continually in Moore Square and the surrounding area, but the significant police presence and involvement in the area have not solved all the issues of concern to all the community members and stakeholders involved.

And we clearly know that we cannot nor do we desire to arrest our way out of this. As mentioned earlier, one of the problems is littering

- It draws the highest volume of complaints.
- These pictures were sent to us earlier by a stakeholder in the area. Littering is constant concern – despite earnest efforts to keep it clean. Park visitors also report other issues, such as very aggressive begging and alcohol use. There are reports of public urination and defecation. And they say that they generally feel unsafe.

But the issues go much deeper than that...I offer you a few statistics

- From the beginning of 2011 there have been more than 3,400 calls for police service in Moore Square.
- During the same timeframe Nash Square – our other square-block downtown park – had 536 calls for service.

There is also sharp contrast when one looks at the incidents occurring in the two parks since January 2011. Of the 162 incident reports taken in Moore Square there was:

- 1 Murder
- 6 Robberies
- 30 Assaults
- 46 Drug Violations
- In Nash Square, 29 police incident reports were taken – about 80 percent fewer than in Moore Square. And there was a difference in the types of crimes, too
- There were no violent crimes reported in Nash Square
- And the eight drug violations there represented about 17-percent of Moore Square's drug cases.

There are two points that I want to emphasize here:

The crime trends have gone down in the Moore Square area from 1428. CFS in 2012 to 731 CFS year to date in 2013—many of these are proactive efforts by the officers initiating the call.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> point to make is these statistics do not imply that the less fortunate are causing the crime...it is important to note that that too often they are victims of crime as well.

In addition to the incidents that have occurred in Moore Square, the Police Department has addressed more than 200 “SeeClickFix” submissions. The comments included complaints of excessive littering, aggressive begging and public drug use. The RPD has assured complainants that it would continue to patrol the park and provide attention to the issues raised.

Now, briefly before closing, allow me make some key points about activities that preceded the Raleigh Police Department’s involvement last weekend that related to Moore Square. In July, we began educating the community and the service providers on the sidewalk ordinance.

- A meeting was held Friday that included ranking members of several departments:
- The Parks and Recreation Department
- Police Department
- Community Development Department
- Public Works

A key point of discussion was to talk about the Citizen’s Petition to Council regarding food distribution at Moore Square.

To answer the question that many have asked? What made this weekend any different from the other weekend? What changed?

Part of our discussion was that the Salvation Army’s Downtown location across from Moore Square was closing. It had been used as a food distribution point, so the closing represented a change we knew we would be faced with in addition to the previous educational efforts that had already been underway.

Additionally, that necessitated the informational communication that was to take place involving those who distribute food – including their use of public sidewalks and parks—those ordinances previously discussed by Ms. Sauer.

We simply made folk aware that the Salvation Army had moved, educated the citizens and saw our partners from WAMM providing information about other food distribution sites as well.

The following approach was agreed upon and taken...

- Only four officers were involved in advising group members of the ordinance that restricts providing food in city parks.
- Those four officers were to all be experienced personnel, and they were, one Captain, one Lieutenant, and two Sergeants.
- It was clear to all (in the meeting on Friday and to those engaged in the park)
- No citations were to be issued
- No arrests were to be made

It is important to further note that:

- We have never charged or arrested anyone for food distribution under these ordinances. It is NOT our intent do so. We will continue to work with the community to develop solutions that work for all involved.
  - We have had the best of intentions—it was never to imply, or threaten anyone arrests
  - Our efforts were simply to educate and promote awareness
  - We strive to ensure the safety of all
  - With a year's effort by so many of the City and our partners, we would never attempt to undermine these problem solving efforts of so many...we were not done yet—in spite of the fact that there is still work to be done...we have promoted and supported the greater mission of partnership. To bring so many groups together to discuss this issue for a year...is a very powerful example of partnership.

While this is a complex issue:

We don't ever want to deny outreach from or to the greater community.

- We firmly support:
  - Those who serve the needy and those in need
  - Those who live, work and visit in the area

And lastly, the Raleigh Police Department continues to stand ready to assist the City in developing and implementing solutions that work for everyone.

Assistant City Manager Howe stated he would like to sum up some suggestions that may help resolve the issue and suggested the following

1. Reengage some of the partners involve with this one year ago
2. Involve stakeholders that this has been discussed with
3. Reach out to other communities that are in the state of North Carolina
4. Take information that is already in place to come up with some specific actions to get the ball moving forward.

Mr. Howe feels with this type plan all participants can come up with solutions a community can support. This is their primary objective and they could have Staff and other groups to focus on specific actions that could possibly resolve this issue and report back to Council as things develop. He would like to continue to look for alternatives. He pointed out there are Wake County Services and they are offering some opportunity to use the facilities they have where feedings may take place on the weekends. There are many churches and organizations downtown that may offer their parking lots for some feedings. He talked about things that would require some type of permits. He concluded the only time they would ask food distribution operations to move is only when a permitted activity is to be held in the park.

Ms Baldwin questioned Staff's recommendation.

Mr. Howe pointed out they don't recommend any change in the ordinance or requirement or the permit but they also rather not have any kind of enforcement leading to arrests. Currently the people can be in the park without a permit. They are doing what they can to educate on this.

Mr. Odom stated his concern on insurance this being or continuing to be a risk and how this would affect all of the other citizens of Raleigh if something happens.

Mr. Howe stated this could be a risk because the City is liable and it is a risk they have taken for a long time. He stated if someone was to injure themselves on City property taxpayers could be on the hook for a settlement. This is a current problem. Generally, when someone rents the park they provide their own insurance.

Ms. Baldwin asked for a show of hands on how many people would like to speak. Approximately 35 people raised their hands.

***Speakers at the Law and Public Safety Committee on August 28, 2013***

1. *Que Brown, 2501 Avent Ferry Road, Raleigh, NC. (Supporter) (The Reality Project, rallies and marches are held to represent the Homeless)*
2. *Debbie Beasack, Fuquay Varina, NC(Supporter) (Feeds in Moore Square) (Coalition for Catholic Churches)*
3. *Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Outreach Ministry. (Ministers)*
4. *Octavia Rainey, 1516 E. Lane Street, Raleigh, NC, 27601. (Supporter) (Addressed Unfair treatment by RPD, DRA, and general treatment overall to minorities in the Downtown area.)*
5. *Wilbur Davis, Raleigh, NC. (Supporter) (Ex homeless, lived on streets for over 20 years)*
6. *Ed Andrews, 200 D Gardner Street, Raleigh, NC. (Supporter) (Concerned about how the poor are treated)*
7. *Sylvia Wiggins, Director of Helping Hand Mission, Raleigh, NC 27610. (Supporter) (Addressed unfairness by DRA and downtown being bias for the less fortunate)*
8. *Gaither Hawkins, Clayton, NC. (Supporter)*

9. *Patrick Oneal, Catholic Workers House, Garner, NC. (One of the Cofounders of the 4:00 pm Saturday Meal Distribution)*
10. *Al Brothers, 123 E. Martin Street Raleigh, NC. (Submitted a statement for the file, would like the COR to consider dissipating the obligations of charitable efforts into the perimeter of the downtown area)*
11. *Rick French, 112 E. Hargett Street, Raleigh, NC. (Supports DRA and Downtown Businesses)*
12. *Wanda Thomas, Act of Kindness Outreach. (Supporter)*
13. *Steve Beauty, 212 E. Davie Street, Raleigh, NC 27601.*
14. *Alice McGee, Director of Church in the Woods, 4701 Forestdale Road, Raleigh, NC 27603. (Submitted brochures to the Committee and for the file)*
15. *Richard Frank Miller-Haraway, 1700 Holt Place, Raleigh, NC 27607, Director of Catholic Charities, Raleigh Regional Office ( Supporter)*
16. *Michael Watkins, 2521 Torquay Crossing, Raleigh, NC, 27616. (Don't Criminalize or penalize homelessness)*
17. *Todd Pratt, 906 W. Johnson Street, Raleigh, NC. (Concerned about housing for the homeless)*
18. *Bo Bodenshteyn, 2716 Dove Lane, Raleigh, NC, 27604. (Central Baptist Church) (Supporter)*
19. *Jill Staton Bullard, 1536 Hemphill Drive, Raleigh, NC. (Interfaith Food Shuttle)*
20. *Debra King, Chair, Preventing Homelessness in Wake County Partnership. (Ms. King asked that all partners in attendance stand, approximately 25 partners attended)*
21. *Charles Hancock, 27604. (Supporter)*
22. *John Titus (Supporter)*
23. *Roy Schmidt, 123 Lofton Lane, Cary, NC. (Supporter)*
24. *The Rev. Canon Michael Buerkef Hunn, 412 North East Street, Raleigh, NC, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. (Supporter - submitted letter for file)*
25. *Michael Johnson, Resident of Wake County. (Supporter)*
26. *Reverend Hugh Holloway, 208 Lincoln Court, Raleigh, NC 27601. (Supporter). 701 W. Jones Street. (Ministry)*
27. *Anthony (homeless) (Pointed out an example Wendy Clark of RPD is a concerned officer that does her best to treat the homeless right and to do what's right)*
28. *Rock (Local Artist) (Supporter)*
29. *Catherine Cralle Jones, Attorney at Law, Office, 127 W. Hargett Street, Suite 600, 27601; 109 Whispering Pine Court, Cary, NC 27511 (Home). (Supporter - expressed concern of constitutional rights)*
30. *Mary Rutter, Wake County. (Supporter - has served the homeless for 21 years )*
31. *Alyssa Vine-Hodge, 203 Ashe Avenue, Raleigh, NC. (Concerned about a more diverse Downtown)*
32. *Marvin Woll, 116 Van Stone Road, Raleigh. (May be able to serve in the parking lot next to the Helping Hand Mission 919-771-0888)*
33. *Sally Edwards, 2711 Royster Street, Raleigh, NC 27608-1521. (Marbles Children Center)*
34. *Carmen Zepp, Wendell, NC. (Human Beings Together) (Supporter with concerns on dialogue, arrests and communication/information)*

35. *Denise Fitzpatrick, 1625 Capital Boulevard, Raleigh, NC. (Supporter) (Housing is a concern)*
36. *Leslie Logan-Brown, General Manager, Logan's Trading Company, 707 Semart Drive, Raleigh, NC, 27604. (The business supports feeding. They have been providing food for growth for the past 4 or 5 years. How can they contribute?)*
37. *David Lagarr, Chair, Brownbag Ministries, Apex, NC.*
38. *Raymond Ward, Raleigh, NC. (Works with the disabled and return trash cans and restrooms to Moore Square)*
39. *Harvey Fulton, Winston Salem, NC. (Worked with Salvation Army for the last 3 years is concerned about funding some programs)*
40. *Pat Patterson, Raleigh NC. (Worked for WLLE Radio Station) (Supporter)*
41. *Nowell Hunter, 2300 Fairview Road, Raleigh, NC 27609-2243. (Supporter) (Sees the situation as broader than just feeding)*
42. *Steve Smith, Raleigh, NC (Supporter)*
43. *Melissa Poole and son Trip Poole, 9101 Rhinebeck Court,, Raleigh, NC, 27617. (Hobophobia Sign "Let Us Feed Our Homeless" Held)*
44. *Jin Hills, (Business Owner at the City Market)*
45. *Richard Fitzgerald, Johnson County, Director of Fundraising and Agency Relations at Raleigh Rescue Mission. (also with WAMM) (WAMM meeting will be held September 3, 2013 @ 4:00 pm)*
46. *Joan Gosper, 2112 Deep Forest Trail, Raleigh, NC 27603. (Supports Love Wins Ministry)*
47. *Minister John Butler (Assisted in cleanup after Fran in 1996) (Supporter)*

**Mr. Gaylord left the meeting at 3:47 pm.**

### ***Agencies & Churches in Support***

*The Reality Project,  
 Coalition for Catholic Churches  
 Interfaith Food Shuttle  
 The Helping Hand Mission  
 Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Outreach Ministry  
 Preventing Homelessness in Wake County Partnership  
 Love Wins Ministries  
 Salvation Army  
 Catholic Charities  
 Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Outreach Ministry  
 Act of Kindness Outreach  
 Central Baptist Church  
 Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina  
 Reverend Hugh Holloway, 701 W. Jones Street, (Ministry)  
 WAMM  
 Raleigh Rescue Mission  
 Brownbag Ministry*

*4:00 pm Saturday Meal Distribution  
Church in the Woods  
Debbie Beasack, Fuquay Varina, NC (Feeds in Moore Square)  
Coalition for Catholic Churches  
Human Beings Together*

**The above mentioned citizens expressed concerns relating to:** lack of trash cans and restrooms in Moore Square, homeless presence impacting businesses efforts to feed the homeless, violations, feeding being allowed for years and now prohibition, merchant concerns, locations for food distribution and alternatives, segregation, Downtown Raleigh Alliance as it relates to this subject to include Bias, back door racism, plan implementation, bench removal from Moore Square (return the benches), recommendation: to include a UNC School of Civil Rights Representative in readdressing this plan, fair housing, people congregating on Fayetteville Street versus the congregation of the homeless in Moore Square, up scaling in downtown without including all citizens, agency assistance, misconception of various ministries, treatment of the weak, being vulnerable as it relates to the poor, food not being the only charity people are receiving, faith, providing services for those that are in need, negative impacts as it relates to minorities, providing facilities for housing, why use Moore Square, Moore Square during the 60's and being a place as a sense of refuge, arrest threats, servers being allowed to distribute food to the needy, taxpayer's money being spent on projects other than homeless needs, moral responsibilities and duties, ending homeless services being an embarrassment to the COR, unfriendly approaches from police officers, what is a violation as it relates to serving the homeless, sharing services and partnering, cleanup, dissipating the obligations of charitable efforts into the perimeter of the downtown area, Moore Square becoming a herding place, WAMM members and organization, quality of life, crime, food stamp programs, homelessness not being criminalized or penalized, humanity, RPD concerns, soup pantries, funding the homeless in all areas, transportation for the homeless, importance of Moore Square's location, partnership of the City of Raleigh, poverty issues, clash issues, positive versus negative experiences, equal treatment of races, dollars spent by COR, RPD treatment toward the homeless, improve relationships between RPD and homeless, injustice, gratitude for the charities that serve, permitting, waiver of fees, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly, minimal fees for these type of events, education and how it should be done, diversity downtown, resources of valid information, public restroom use at Moore Square Station, employment as a resource, a broader need, use of more City Parks, the positive work being done, trash issues, communication problems, relationship building, volunteering, etc.

Ms. Baldwin thanked everyone for coming.

Mr. Odom thanked everyone for coming. People need to be fed. He stated he feels the City should work with Wake County. He feels this is a great opportunity for this to be better. He thanked everyone for coming. He pointed out the City worked a lot on this in 1988 and 1989. He pointed out Debra King remembers. He expressed great concern about the liability issue as it is a risk. Staff has given direction as to where this needs to start. He stated a gentleman did mention there is someone making money off of insurance. He understands the City is self insured. He looks forward to resolving this issue and feels the rest of the Council does also.

Mr. Stagner stated he would like to thank everyone for coming. He pointed out the citizens of Raleigh have been generous. He stated they support this and there are a number of agencies the City works with to show this support. He does not feel there is anybody at the table that does not have any concern about the need. The question is how they fix the need. He has a concern about permitting. He stated Staff has provided recommendations and this is a start. He would like to see some additional work done and he does want some type of recommendation soon.

Ms. Baldwin stated her thought is they do not change the policy, continue educating, and don't charge for any permits and no law enforcement. Mr. Howe clarified as it relates to permitting there would be no charge for the specific purpose of feeding the homeless. Ms. Baldwin answered in the affirmative. Phase II would be partnering and to look for an alternative to provide a food team. She would like to reengage Community Oriented Government (COG), Wake County services and include other groups to continue the outreach. She stated she would like a report back to the Law and Public Safety Meeting for the second meeting, November 26, 2013. This would give everybody a few days to gather information and they can start looking at where this is. Ms. Baldwin stated this is her motion.

Mr. Stagner seconded the motion. Ms. Baldwin pointed out before Mr. Odom left the meeting early he told her he was in favor of her motion. The motion was put to a vote which passed 3-0. Mr. Odom had left the meeting but was not excused; therefore his vote was in the affirmative.

Mr. Howe reiterated as it relates to permitting there would be no charge for the specific purpose of feeding the homeless.

Ms. Baldwin stated this is only related to group feeding.

Mr. Howe stated they would like to work with these groups to meet the standards of the Parks Ordinance in terms of access and appearance on the sidewalks but would not charge for a permit.

The Committee recommends the following:

The Committee recommends not enforcing the rules and regulations relating to feeding the homeless in Moore Square until administration develops a possible solution to the issues for consideration at the November 26, 2013 Law and Public Safety Committee meeting. It is understood the stay of enforcement only relates to feeding the homeless at Moore Square.

- In the interim, do not change policy regarding Moore Square
- No enforcement/arrests for any food distribution activity — same as current policy
- Continue to educate food providers about restrictions in the park and sidewalks
- Once alternative sites are identified, offer alternatives to groups who arrive to serve food
- Ask food distribution operations to move only when a permitted activity is to be held in the park
- In the interim, look for alternative sites to allow groups to provide food
- Concentrate on sites near where those in need already congregate

- Explore Wake County facilities that are already set up for services to the needy
- Explore sites at churches/organizations that have facilities that can accommodate outside groups safely
- Work with our existing partners to identify alternative sites
- Re-engage the Community Oriented Government (COG) team
- Widen the circle to include other agencies including Wake County
- Reach out to all community groups and faith-based organizations to participate
- Ask the team to develop specific action steps related to the priorities they have already developed

Ms. Baldwin questioned a meeting time for WAMM.

**Richard Fitzgerald Dir of Fundraising and Agency Relations at Raleigh Rescue Mission** (*also with WAMM*) stated the meeting would be held at 4:00 pm on September 3, 2013.

Ms. Baldwin stated she would like to see more people involved in this discussion.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

**Daisy Harris Overby**  
**Assistant Deputy Clerk**  
**08/28/2013**